

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 31 as follows:

Still to enhance the comfort of the patient, it is disclosed in patent US5,492,113 and US5,970,975 an apparatus wherein several cycles of ramp are provided on patient's conscious demand. The cycles actuated after the first cycle rise faster in pressure. All those ramps are predetermined in shape and duration. The patient can also select a fastest shape of ramp or select one special shape in order to fall asleep more easily. This selection being made among different predetermined shapes of ramp. However, such devices require from the patient a minimum of consciousness to activate the ramp cycles. This is not really very efficient to fall asleep and it is not possible when the patient ~~as~~ has fallen asleep.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19 as follows:

The invention thus concerns an apparatus to assist a ~~patient~~ patient's respiration by delivering air to a patient ~~through~~ through a mask, comprising:

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29 as follows:

The apparatus as represented in figure 1 comprises a blower 4 to provide the patient with air. This blower is connected to a tube 8 on a first extremity, the second extremity being connected to the mask 20 wherein the patient breathes. A control unit 2 provides the ~~blower 10~~ blower 4 with the electrical control required to enable the blower to function in order to set a given pressure at the patient's mask or blower's outlet. This pressure could be measured by a pressure transducer 6 at the mask level or at the tube extremity, which is connected to the mask. A ramp module 10 is connected to the control unit 2 and to the pressure transducer 6. The ramp module provides the control unit 2 with the pressure at the patient's mask and with the pressure to settle at the patient's mask at the starting of the apparatus 1 functioning. During the treatment the control unit 2 is able to detect breathing events according to the pressure sensor 6 or any other way to evaluate or measure the patient's airflow. Such detection can be given by airflow sensors which provide the control unit with pressure parameters, the control units being thus able to detect that an event is occurring.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13 as follows:

The apparatus according to the present invention is able to modulate the rise in pressure during one single ramp period, which is impossible to perform for apparatus of prior art. The apparatus comprises a ramp module 10 connected to the control unit 2 in order to provide the control unit with the value of pressure  $P_M$  to settle at the patient's mask, so that when said apparatus starts functioning, the pressure progressively rises until the pressure of treatment  $P_T$ . The apparatus comprises a comparator which is not represented in ~~figure~~ figure 1 and that can be comprised in the control unit 2. This comparator is connected to the ramp module 10. The apparatus comprise also at least one means for detecting the patients breathing parameters and sending them to said comparator, in order that in response to said breathing parameters, the comparator is able ~~according~~ to determine that an event occurs in patient breathing and to send the corresponding data to the ramp module which provide the control unit 2 with a value of pressure  $P_M$  that will speed up in respect of the time, so that the rise of pressure at patient's mask is accelerated.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24 as follows:

When a patient is asleep his respiration becomes stable, this is used to detect the instant when the patient falls asleep. Another way to detect when the patient falls asleep is to detect the drop of frequency between the awake rate breathing and the awake breathing. As represented in figure 4 and according to a preferential implementation, the control unit 2 transmits to the ramp module an output average pressure value  $P_M$  which is the pressure value required to be delivered to the patient's mask. When the patient is about to fall asleep, his respiration becomes stable. In that case the  $P_M$  value is increased, preferentially as a linear function of time, the proportional coefficient being  $K_{RP}$ . If the pressure value  $P_M$  is inferior to the safety ramp ~~pressure  $P_{SR}$~~  pressure  $S_{RP}$ , the pressure  $P_M$  is set to the value of the safety ramp ~~pressure  $P_{SR}$~~  pressure  $S_{RP}$ , which is in a preferential implementation calculated by the ~~module-ramp~~ ramp module 10 by multiplying the time spent from the beginning of the ramp routine to the present time by the coefficient  $K_{SP}$ . When the pressure value  $P_M$  equals or is superior to the treatment pressure  $P_T$ , the  $P_M$  pressure is maintained equal to the treatment pressure value  $P_T$ . On the

contrary the control unit 2 checks again if the respiration is stable. This shows that until the patient falls asleep the  $P_M$  value will not be superior to the treatment pressure  $P_T$ , and will only ~~equals~~ equal it when the patient falls asleep or when the safety ramp reaches the treatment pressure value. This also shows that during the ramp period, if the respiration is stable, the air provided can rise faster than the safety ramp. In that case, the coefficient  $K_{RP}$  will be higher than the coefficient  $K_{SP}$ . The ramp module will thus enable ~~to~~ the control unit to accelerate the rise in pressure when the patients fall asleep and when no events are detected.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 21 as follows:

~~An other~~ Another implementation of the apparatus according to the present invention is that when the control unit detects an ~~an~~ event in patients breathing that shows an asleep ~~state~~, state, the control unit will provide the ramp module 10 with the information. The ramp module will thus increase again the rise in pressure.